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Message Text

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46
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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RSR-01 /083 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
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INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1554

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, UY, US
SUBJECT: VISIT OF GENERAL WILLIAM B. ROSSON, COMMANDER- IN-
CHIEF, U. S. SOUTHERN COMMAND

1. FROM MAY 13 TO MAY 16, GENERAL WILLIAM ROSSON COMPLETED A ROUTINE COURTESY AND ORIENTATION VISIT TO MONTEVIDEO. WHILE HERE HE CALLED UPON PRESIDENT BORDABERRY AND VISITED SELECTED UNITS OF THE URUGUAYAN ARMED FORCES. THE URUGUAYAN MILITARY SERVICE CHIEFS HOSTED A LUNCHEON FOR GENERAL ROSSON AND HIS PARTY ON MAY 14. AN EMBASSY RECEPTION WAS HELD FOR HIM ON MAY 15, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY 150 GUESTS MOST OF WHOM WERE URUGUAYAN MILITARY OFFICERS AND THEIR WIVES.

2. ALTHOUGH GENERAL ROSSON' S VISIT COINCIDED WITH A TENSE AND DIFFICULT PERIOD OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE URUGUAYAN ARMED FORCES AND THE CONGRESS, PRESS COVERAGE OF THE GENERAL' S VISIT WAS STRAIGHT FORWARD AND ACCURATE. WE HAVE DELAYED SENDING THIS REPORT TO ASSAY REACTION TO THE VISIT. SURPRISINGLY, NO ADVERSE OR DEROGATORY COMMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE EVEN BY THOSE SECTORS, PARTICULARLY THE MARXIST PRESS WHICH USUALLY SEIZE UPON ANY OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK THE USG AND THE GOU.

3. WE BELIEVE GENERAL ROSSON' S VISIT WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BOTH IN TERMS OF URUGUAYAN MILITARY ATTITUDES AND USG OBJECT-
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IVES IN THIS COUNTRY. WE BELIEVE THE VISIT AFFORDED HIM WITH A GOOD LOOK AT THE PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES CURRENTLY FACING THE URUGUAYAN ARMED FORCES, WHOSE TRADITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ROLE IN THIS COUNTRY HAS SO RECENTLY BEEN BROADENED TO MAKE THE MILITARY A KEY POLITICAL FACTOR. FROM THE URUGUAYAN SIDE, IT OFFERED LTRAL MILITARY COMMANDERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THEIR NEEDS AND PROBLEMS WITH THE SENIOR U. S. MILITARY COMMANDER IN LATIN AMERICA AND RECEIVE DIRECTLY FROM HIM AN AUTHORITATIVE DESCRIPTION OF OUR PRGRAMS.

4. SINCE GENERAL ROSSON' S DEPARTURE, WE HAVE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION ON THE PART OF SENIOR URUGUAYAN MILITARY OFFICERS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WHICH THIS VISIT PRESENTED TO THEM . THERE HAVE BEEN MANY LAUDATORY COMMENTS MADE ON THE GENERAL AND OR THE MANNER IN WHICH THE VISIT WAS CARRIED OUT. IN SUMMARY, GENERAL ROSSON' S VISIT HERE WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. WE BELIEVE IT HELPED PROVIDE US WITH IMPROVED WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LEADERS OF THE URUGUAYAN ARMED FORCES.
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